

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01349 141249Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ONY-00 /027 W
-----101279 141252Z /41
R 140808Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7830

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1349

STADIS//////////

NO DISSEM OUTSIDE NEA

E O 11652: NGDS
TAGS:RVWSF, TC, UK, US
SUBJ: GULF TALKS WITH BRITISH ON LOWER GULF ARMS SALES

REFS: A) LONDON'S 6154, B. TWINAM-SAUNDERS 4/12 MEMO,
C. ABU DHABI 1007

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ASST SECY SAUNDERS RAISING WITH
BRITISH IN LONDON TALKS OUR CONCERNS OVER RECENT BRITISH
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE OF SCORPION TANKS TO DUBAI. WHILE
BRITISH ARGUMENT THAT IF THEY DID NOT SELL TANKS TO UAE,
FRENCH WILL, HAS A FAMILIAR RING, FACT IS THAT BOTH OUR
EUROPEAN FRIENDS ARE IN ARMS BUSINESS HERE IN A RELATIVELY
BIG WAY.

2. THERS IS ONE OTHER POINT WHICH WE HAD INTENDED TO BE
CONVEYED DURING LONDON TALKS BUT WHICH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
COVERED DUE TO PRESS OF TIME. IN AGREEING TO SELL TANKS
TO DUBAI EMIRATE, BRITISH ARE NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTING TO ARMS
ACQUISITIONS BY LOYAL GULF STATES BUT ALSO TO POSSIBLE
COMPETITION IN ARMS PURCHASES AMONG CONSTITUENT MEMBER
EMIRATES OF UAE. FROM WHAT UAE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US,
SCORPION TANKS ARE FOR DUBAI'S "CENTRAL COMMAND" AND ARE
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GOING TO BE PAID FOR BY DUBAI GOVERNMENT. PARTICULARLY AT
THIS MOMENT WHEN SOME DEGREE OF POLITICAL TENSION EXISTS
BETWEEN ABU DHABI AND DUBAI AND FINDS EXPRESSION IN
SHAIKH RASHID'S CONTINUED REFUSAL TO PLACE DUBAI MILITARY
FORCES UNDER OVERALL COMMAND OF COMMANDERS APPOINTED BY
SHAIKH ZAYID, IT BEHOOVES UK AND OTHERS TO FOREGO ARMS
DEALS THAT ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE RASHID'S DESIRE TO

RETAIN CONTROL OVER HIS OWN ARMED FORCES RATHER THAN
DEVELOP RATIONAL, UNIFIED DEFENSE STRUCTURE.

3. WE HOPE THAT SENIOR NEA OFFICERS MIGHT FIND EARLY
OPPORTUNITY MAKE THIS POINT ALSO TO OUR BRITISH FRIENDS,
EITHER IN LONDON OR IN WASHINGTON.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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